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For immediate release

**F. M. Kirby Foundation and CASE Announce Winner of
\$100,000 Fred Morgan Kirby Prize for Scaling Social Impact**

Named after early entrepreneur Fred Morgan Kirby and supported by the [F.M. Kirby Foundation](#), the Fred Morgan Kirby Prize for Scaling Social Impact awards \$100,000 to one impact enterprise each year that is working to scale its impact on social and/or environmental problems around the world.

While each of the [14 finalists](#) for the prize demonstrated innovative scaling strategies, resilience amid challenges, and powerful evidence of impact, one rose to the top of a competitive inaugural applicant pool. The F. M. Kirby Foundation and the [Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship \(CASE\)](#) at Duke University's [Fuqua School of Business](#) are pleased to announce [Healthy Learners](#) as the winner of the 2020-2021 F. M. Kirby Impact Prize.

Based in Zambia, [Healthy Learners](#) works to improve the health of school-based children through partnering with government agencies to train teachers as community health workers. For children living in low and middle-income countries, common childhood illnesses such as worm infestation, febrile illness, and respiratory infections result in poor health and keep them out of school for weeks at a time. An [external evaluation of Healthy Learners'](#) work shows that training and supporting teachers as health workers leads to significant improvements in child healthcare utilization and education, including:



- 38% reduction in morbidity
- 48% increase in vitamin A and deworming coverage (increased from 41% to 84%, whereas it remained at 37% in control)
- 52% reduction in odds of stunting
- 22% increase in student knowledge of health topics

Additionally, Healthy Learners' partner schools report reduced student absenteeism as well as improvement in teachers' management skills and job satisfaction.

While Healthy Learners has expanded their model to all public primary schools in Lusaka, Zambia serving 250,000 children at an ongoing annual cost of only \$2.50 per child, their [vision](#) is full integration of their school-based community health model into the day-to-day operations of the education system throughout Zambia, and then becoming a model for governments throughout the region and beyond.

"Healthy Learners is building a brighter future where schools can support the overall health of children," said Healthy Learners' Director of Programmatic Expansion and Co-Founder Ignicious Bulongo. "Winning the F. M. Kirby Impact Prize will help us reach 600,000 children over the next three years through replicating our model in new provinces, deepening our partnerships with the Zambian Ministries of Health and Education, and building the team capacity and systems necessary to execute at our next level of scale."

The F. M. Kirby Prize Selection Committee was particularly impressed with Healthy Learners' [effective partnership with government](#) – a partnership that has been strengthened during the COVID19 pandemic as the Zambian government looked to Healthy Learners to help safely re-open and manage schools and is now urging Healthy Learners to accelerate their expansion plans.

Additionally, the Committee was impressed by the strength of Healthy Learner's leadership, particularly the levels of local leadership in both organizational management and program implementation. 71% of Healthy Learners' senior management team and 95% of the enterprise's non-leadership full-time workers are Zambian. "At CASE, we know that those most proximate to an issue often have the most innovative insights into effective levers for sustainable change," said CASE Executive Director Erin Worsham. "Local leadership and knowledge is key to solving our most entrenched global problems."

Justin Kiczek, Executive Vice President of the F. M. Kirby Foundation, added, "With its emphasis on entrepreneurship, the Fred Morgan Kirby Prize honors the Foundation's roots while also looking to the future as it seeks innovative solutions to 21st-century problems. Despite the distance in time and space between Healthy Learners and F. M. Kirby, they are united by a boldness in vision and a commitment to success. We are lucky to have such great partners at the CASE Program at the Fuqua School of Business, who helped turn an idea into reality."

Applications for the 2021-2022 prize will open in fall 2021. [Subscribe to the CASE newsletter](#) to be the first to learn more about the 2021-2022 prize.

About the Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship (CASE):

The Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship (CASE) is an award-winning research and education center based at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. CASE's mission is to prepare leaders and organizations with the business skills needed to achieve lasting social change.

About the F. M. Kirby Foundation:

The F. M. Kirby Foundation is headquartered in Morristown, New Jersey. Endowed in 1931 by Fred Morgan Kirby, one of the founders of the F.W. Woolworth Company, it was designed to continue in perpetuity through generations of the family. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded over \$735 million in grants. Five Kirby family members, currently spanning two generations, serve on the Board, as well as two non-family directors.